

## COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As the below named inventors, we hereby declare: that our residences, post office addresses and citizenships are as stated near our names below; that we are joint inventors and we believe we are the original and first inventors of the subject matter of which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

### LATCH MECHANISM

which is set forth in an application for Letters Patent in the United States executed on even date herewith; attorney docket number 60,130-1003, and that this application claims priority to United Kingdom Application No. GB0003688.9 filed February 18, 2000.

We have reviewed and understand the contents of this specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above; that we do not know and do not believe the same was ever known or used in the United States of America before our invention thereof or patented or described in any printed publication, in any country before our invention thereof for more than one year prior to this application, or in public use or on sale in the United States of America more than one year prior to this application; that the invention has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate issued before the date of this application in any country foreign to the United States of America on an application filed by us or our legal representatives or assigns more than twelve (12) months prior to this application; that we acknowledge our duty to disclose information of which we are aware which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a); and that no application for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention has been filed in any country foreign to the United States of America prior to this application by us or our legal representatives or assigns except as follows:

We hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119(a)-(d) of the foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate filed on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed.

Such applications have been filed as follows:

COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (month, day, year)	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 37 USC 119
United Kingdom	GB0003688.9	February 18, 2000	Yes <u>X</u> No

05784931 034604

Docket No. 40130-789

We hereby appoint M. Lee Murrah, Registration No. 27,460; Theodore W. Olds, Registration No. 33,080; Scott M. Confer, Registration No. 40,568; John E. Carlson, Registration No. 37,794; David J. Gaskey, Registration No. 37,139; Kerrie A. Laba, Registration No. 42,777; William Gottschalk, Registration No. 44,130; David Wisz, Registration No. 46,350; Karin H. Butchko, Registration No. 45,864; John M. Siragusa, Registration No. 46,174 and Anthony P. Cho, Registration No. 47,209 as our attorneys to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office and any foreign patent office connected herewith. Please address all correspondence and telephone calls to:

Karin H. Butchko  
Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C.  
400 W. Maple, Suite 350  
Birmingham, MI 48009  
(248) 988-8360

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

We hereby declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

S. E. Fisher  
Sydney Edward Fisher  
85 Newborough Road  
Shirley, Solihull  
West Midlands  
B90 2HB  
United Kingdom

Post Office Address: same

Citizenship: UNITED KINGDOM  
S.E.F.  
United States

Dated: 2 February 2001

Timothy Bland  
Timothy Bland  
9000 Fellowes Creek Drive  
Plymouth, Michigan 48170  
United States

Post Office Address: same

Citizenship: United States

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

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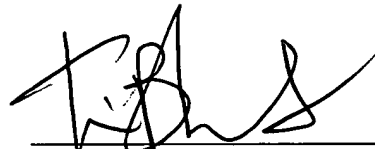
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Sydney Edward Fisher  
 85 Newborough Road  
 Shirley, Solihull  
 West Midlands  
 B90 2HB  
 United Kingdom

Post Office Address: same

Citizenship: United States

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

  
 Timothy Bland  
 9000 Fellow's Creek Drive  
 Plymouth, Michigan 48170  
 United States

Post Office Address: same

Citizenship: ~~United States~~ BRITISH

Dated: 6th FEB 2001